From Spark to Space

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - - since 1917

Volume 10 No. 5 - September, '02

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From The President's Desk

Patrick Moretti - WB9UQ

We had a discussion the other day as to whether Amateur Radio is a right or a privilege...

There were some that came up and with an aggressive growl asserted that it was a right!

There were others that said it was a right once you passed the test!

There were a few more that thought longer and harder and answered that it is a privilege.

There is nothing in the US Constitution or the Bill of Rights that says something to the effect of : Amateur Radio is self evident... or is an unalienable right or any thing close to that. No, far from it! Rather, Amateur Radio is part of a Military Plot to provide a pool of trained operators in case of "conflict." Individual Amateurs have taken this call and gone beyond the initial need for resources and taken on the task of advancing the state of the art of communications.

As we ponder and remember the events of last September, once again we can consider the call for "trained operators". There is a need for professional communicators - people who have in their makeup the skills necessary to provide clear and concise communications in case of an emergency, in case of need.

It is not just a matter of "wanting to do it." It is a matter of being prepared to do it. How do we prepare? Well there are several ways. We must prepare mentally. Some one will be in charge, we must be prepared to follow their lead and accept their decisions. We must remember to leave our Egos at home the day that the call comes to help. We must know the procedures - the language of communications - we must practice. We must be prepared - like the Boy Scouts, we must have our equipment ready, our batteries charged our spares on hand, our knowledge current (how do you program your radio to work under the particular communications scheme used at this emergency) maps, ropes, flashlights, spare batteries, chargers, candles,

Continued on pg 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Mon-Fri	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Thu	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.91 -	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10 mtr. Net
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.91-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.91-	Swap Net

Two meter (FM) Frequencies are 600 KHz offset repeaters. FM 38 is + 5 MHz. Ten meter (SSB) frequencies are upper sideband (USB).

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

water, matches, gloves, weather related equipment, mosquito repellent, snow shovels, etc... How many of us are really ready for that emergency when it hits our area? Ask your self - How would I react. Do you have a check list?

At another recent discussion, the question of the day was:" What is my responsibility, as an Amateur in a major catastrophe?" Most present answered that their duty was first to family and self - to establish personal safety first. That is correct - establish our own safety and that of your loved ones first, because when you go to your communications emergency post, you might be there for a long time! And when you do go to it, you better be ready!

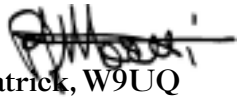
Ready you say? How do you get there? Well there are several methods. You can take courses in public safety - crowd management - emergency communications - damage assessment - field emergency operations... and many more. Each has its own place in the cycle of emergency communications.

I took a course in damage assessment after the level 5 tornado that leveled a large part of the town of Windsor, Connecticut. The motive... I was there, I saw the tornado - I was devastated that I was not prepared for the level of disaster that I witnessed. That is the sad part. We talk about being ready, but very often what it takes to make us get ready is an actual emergency... the debrief, what comes afterwards - very often will be the motivation to get the training, get the practice, prepare your gear so that next time, if it ever comes, we might be ready... Folks, now is the time.

As we get ready to remember the events of September 11, 2001. We must place some of our pent-up frustrations, some of our stored and suppressed energy into preparing for the next blow - whether from an outside "enemy" or from some natural event. Our program this month is about emergency communications and what one local group has done towards being ready. We will get to see and understand the role of the ARES van and the programs surrounding the efforts of its supporters. We should in turn be ready to support them.

Oh yes - part of the Radio Amateur Radio Operator's makeup is that he/she loves Amateur Radio - that is what the words mean Radio Amateur= one who loves Radio! I know I truly do. Do you? Of course you do or you wouldn't have bothered to read all the way to this point! Let's remember to be ready, but also let's remember that it is for us - a passion - an avocation - to use the ether to communicate with what ever tools we can find to pierce that unknown fog that stands between two points on the surface of this small blue/green planet!

Regards to you from



Patrick, W9UQ

Remember to USE Our Repeater 145.390 MHz -.

Our repeater is a quiet one because YOU make and keep it that way.

Christmas Party Set

We have a date for the Christmas Party/Dinner.

Vern Teske - W9RYA has made arrangements for our Christmas event to take place on Sunday - December 1, 2002. Gathering time will be 5:00 PM with Dinner at 6:00 PM. The place will be the Machine Shed at Hwy "J" and Hwy "I-94".

Further details will be made availabe in upcoming 'Chatters and meetings along with registration blank.

Thanks, Verne

Refreshments, Gone?

Our donuts and refreshments may cease starting with the October meeting. Myron Hendrickson - KA9MWV, who has been faithful in obtaining the refreshments for our monthly meetings, will no longer be able to volunteer due to health problems.

Being able to QSO over coffee, soda and donuts is definitely one of the highlights of the club meetings. However for this luxury to continue we need volunteers from the general membership to step forward. This will be one other duty the Board of Directors should not have to step in and do. The choice is yours.

Thank you Myron for your part in giving back to the club.

John - WB9PSE.

Membership Meeting August 29, 2002

The meeting was called to order by club president Patrick - W9UQ at 7:07 PM. Since we didn't have the PA system no introductions were made. The club secretary Tom - AB9EK, read the minutes of the July meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Les - AB9EY gave his Treasurer's report. The club's liquid assets are $5366.43.

Patrick - W9UQ, had brought along an image that was made in a piece of Plexiglas with a 21 million electron volt spark; one electron bolt was used to make the image. He explained how the image was produced.

Patrick informed the membership what the Board is trying to accomplish. Members have asked that the newsletter go back to being published once a month. A show of hands was asked for to see how many want to go to a once a month newsletter. Only seven members voted to keep the newsletter at every other month. With going to a once a month newsletter and possible other increased expenses, Patrick stated that a possible dues increase might be necessary at the most to $20. More information will be coming.

Amateur Radio Classes; Mark - AB9CD has put out flyers at AES, UWM and some other locations for the upcoming Technician class. The class will start on September 14th at AES. Starting time is noon and will go for eight weeks, finishing up a week before the testing session in October. A General and Extra class will follow later in the year or early spring. Howard was asked to post the class notice on the club web page.

Verne has been looking for a site to hold the club's Christmas party. He had been looking on the North side of Milwaukee but has not found a site. He suggested that we go back to the Machine Shed. The membership agreed and Verne will set it up with them.

Brian - K9LCQ and Dave - WB9BWP were asked to present the J. Travis Baird Award to this year's recipient. Brian gave a short explanation of the award and Dave gave an explanation of who J. Travis Baird was. The first recipient of the award went to Dick - WB9PTC for all his contribution to amateur radio. Congratulations to Dick.

Jerry - WA9CGE is next year's Field Day coordinator. Anyone who'd like to volunteer for next year's event see Jerry. Patrick auctioned off a few items and the money went to the club.

Pancho made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Kate seconded and the meeting adjourned for the programs.

Tom - KF9PU and John - KF9XL presented the first program. Their presentation was on the 2002 National VEC conference, a short history of the VEC and the reasonability's of the VEC. Mark - AB9CD, presented the second program. Mark showed us pictures of the club's new repeater and explained the process he went through to find the problem with the controller. He also talked about the possible new location for the repeater. The repeater is now on 145.390 MHz with a minus offset and a PL of 127.3. The Board asks that the new location of the repeater be kept quiet for now.

Tom Schultz

Respectfully submitted,
Tom, AB9EK
MRAC Secretary

HamateurChatter

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January1.

Our Club/VEC Phone no. is
(262) 797-MRAC or
(262) 797- 6 7 2 2.

Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:30 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at:
http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

To contact the editor
Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
pancho@thepark.net
or
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
or call:
(414)3444694

Membership Meeting July 25,2002

The meeting was called to order by Club president Patrick - W9UQ at 7:03 pm. The microphone was passed around so that everyone could introduced themselves.

Tom - AB9EK read the minutes of the June meeting. A correction was noted that Jim's call sign was wrong, should be WB9LNU. Les - AB9EY, read the treasurers report, liquid assets are $5,574.17. A motion was made by KB9Q and seconded by W9MOT to accept the minutes and the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Patrick announced that he has appointed a new board member to finish out the term of Tom - AB9EK who is now the club secretary. The new board member is Jerry - WA9CGE. Patrick announced that the Board has decided to issue a plaque for outstanding ham service. The name of the award is the "J. Travis Baird-W9VQD Award". Further information will be coming.

The question on tonight's sign in sheet asked if you have an idea for a club program. If you should have one please let a Board member know. Warren - K9IZV stated that there are 30 members present. Patrick asked Warren not to count the members present and not to make an announcement for this any more. Actual numbers present are 32.

Dave - WB9BWP, was presenting the program for tonight. Dave gave a slide presentation on this year's field day and past events of the club, as short history of the MRAC.

Pancho made a motion and seconded by Ken to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectful submitted

Tom Schulte

Tom Schulte - AB9EK

Club Secretary

J. Travis Baird Award

The idea of a "J. Travis Baird award originated during the last MRAC presidential term of Dave - WB9BWP. It had been discussed in detail over several months.

It was decided that it would be awarded to an outstanding Amateur Radio operator who has distinguished himself in various ways in the HAM community.

The award probably will not be awarded annually, but instead as the Board finds people "particularly" deserving of it.

At the August meeting the award was presented to Dick McNew - WB9PTC for his unending and unselfish commitment to the MRAC and ham communities as a code instructor, Elmer, and many other things that he did to promote HAM radio and MRAC.

Some of this he did on the same evening as leaving a hospital bed.

Words can't say enough about his dedication.

Y'all Come

You're invited to join us at breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant at roughly 180th and Capitol every Saturday morning (give or take a Swapfest or other event) at 8:00AM. Good food an lots of good fellowship, etc.

Also, join us in our W9RH Friday Night Nets every Friday. Ten Meter net meets at about 8:30 PM at about 28,490 KHz.

Two Meter net meets on our repeater at 145.39MHz + at roughly 9:00PM or when the 10 Meter net is done. Oh, we are now using a PL of 127.3Hz.

It's an informal net and they're a great bunch of people. Get on the air and get to know them!

Ex- president, Dave DeFebo presents the J. Travis Baird Award to Dick McNew - WB9PTC

MRAC September Program

ARES Emergency Communications Van

Our September meeting program will feature Phil Rebensburg who will talk about the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) which will be parked just in front of our meeting place.

This is a project which has taken several years to come this far and it is fully operational, even though they keep adding and altering equipment.

It is really worthwile seeing and I'm sure that you will enjoy Phil's program.

73 de Pancho - KA9OFA

The ARES van will also be on display at Shady Lane Green house family day on Sat Oct. 19th from 8 AM to 3 PM. We will have some vintage radios, operating HF and the Van on display. One of the members of the Falls Radio Club, Terry Koller - KA9RFM will have a display of small operating engines that he built. He will also have model radio control airplanes on display. The green house is located just north of Good Hope road on Shady Lane Rd. in Menomonee Falls. When going on Good Hope West from Pilgrim Rd., Shady Lane will be the first road you come to. Next to the green house is WFMR radio station and the tower is a good land mark.

73's

Phil - KC9CI

I Have a Dream

I Have a Dream, maybe fanciful, maybe not.

My dream is of "some day" having a "club house" for HAMs (a Clubhouse for the HAM community at large). My dream is of a clubhouse which could be used as a meeting place for ALL or most of the HAM clubs in the area. It would be large enough to accommodate just about any HAM group in the area with possibly several smaller rooms for smaller gatherings (board meetings, classes, etc.). It could have equipment to implement meetings (screens, projectors, P.A. system, etc. to make programs and demonstrations easier). It would also have facilities for HAMs to operate using various modes of operation. It could be used as a command post in emergencies or for other activities. It would have facilities for building and testing equipment, in a pinch.

Actually, I have two dreams, the second one being, that ALL the HAM clubs would cooperate and work together instead of in competition with each other. There is no reason that we couldn't cooperate. I know that we all have different personalities, methods of operation, government, and goals. I really think that it could be done.

If we could set aside our differences and work on what we have in common (Operators in the HAM radio service).

Who knows, maybe we could even be an example of cooperation to the community at large.

Attitudes are contagious - is yours worth catching?

Recent VE Exam Report

MRAC-VEC held VE testing on July 27, 2002 at AES. There were a total of 15 candidates, and 14 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their first license. Nineteen elements were given, and 14 were passed. Those VE's who assisted at the session included the following:

Doug Awe N9VA
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Gabe Chido WI9GC
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
Dick McNew WB9PTC
Joe Mettry AA9DO
Patrick Moretti W9UQ
Jerry Thompson W9SFH

Also helping out was Kathleen Wilhelm, KB9ZUX.

Our next exam session is scheduled for Saturday Sept 28, 2002 at 9:30 AM at AES. When coming to take an exam, please bring your present original license (if you have one) plus a copy for our records. Also bring any CSCE's (along with a copy of each) which might pertain to the license upgrade for which you are striving. If you wish to apply for a grandfathered credit (for example, an old novice license credit for the EL-1 code exam) you must furnish written proof of this credit. Please bring along 2 forms of ID including one with your picture. The fee for the exam remains at $8. If you need to re-take an exam element at the same session, a separate $8 fee is charged. Please bring a pen, pencils, and a simple, non-programable calculator.

Thank you.

John (KF9KL)

John - KF9XL

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule

- Saturday, September 28, 2002 9:30 AM – AES
- Saturday, October 26, 2002 9:30 AM – AES4
- Saturday, November 30, 2002 9:30 AM – AES
- Saturday, January 4, 2003 9 AM – AMF Waukesha
- Lanes (Near EXPO) (WARAC Swapfest)
- Saturday, January 25, 2003 9:30 AM – AES
- Saturday, February 22, 2003 9:30 AM – AES

AES is Amateur Electronics Supply at 5710 W. Good Hope Rd. in Milwaukee, WI

Repeater Improvements

If you use our repeater you have probably noticed its improved performance and that it has changed frequencies.

We have a new (at least to us) repeater. Because of this, we have improved transmission and reception capabilities.

Our frequency is no longer 147.045 MHz. We have traded frequencies with MATC & are now @ 145.390 MHz with a negative 600 KHz offset & a PL of 127.3 Hz. We are now using the PL capabilities both receiving and transmitting to minimize interference with other repeaters on the same frequency.

Come to the next meeting and find out about the most recent developments.

Randy

HAM Radio, The Spectator Hobby? Hardly!

Our hobby, HAM radio has become quite a hobby. There are quite a number of different phases or faces to the hobby. There's ATV, HF, VHF, UHF, SSB, AM, CW, Spread spectrum, Satellite, DX, building antennas, building your own HAM gear, ARES, weather spotting, MAARS, transmitter (fox) hunts, just to name a few.

There are any number of different things you can and could do in the hobby no matter what your circumstances are. If you are "challenged" or "handicapped" in any way there are still ways that you can communicate and be of use in HAM Radio.

Even if you have no "equipment" there are other avenues to pursue.

HAM radio is not only a hobby, but also a service to the community where you live, the HAM community or even living way out in the sticks so to speak. There ARE ways to be of use and service. You could be a communicator for parades, rides, and in emergency situations.

There are so many things to do and many ways to do things of great interest. I honestly don't know how anyone who is connected with HAM radio has time to be bored or to just become a spectator. I don't know how anyone could think of HAM radio as being a spectator hobby.

Come on. Join the fun. Don't just be a spectator. DO something fun! And interesting!! Meet People!!!

EVENTS

* indicates VEC Testing

Radio Expo 2002 *
Sat. - Sun. Sep. 21 & 22, 2002
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 (107.2 PL) rptr.

Peoria SuperFest 2002 *
Amateur Radio and Computer Show
Fri-Sun. - Sep. 20-22, 2002
Exposition Gardens
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075+

MRAC Meeting
Sep. 26, 2002
7:00 PM
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

VE Testing *
Saturday, Sep. 28, 2002
9:30 AM
A E S
Milwaukee, WI

SouthEast Iowa HamFest *
Sun. - Oct. 6, 2002
Muscatine Co. Fairgrounds
West Liberty, IL
T/I on 146.25/.85 MHz,
146.31/.91 MHz rptrs
or 146.52 MHz simp.

41st AnnualHoosier Hills HamFest
Oct. 6th, 2002
Lawrence Co. Fairgrounds
Bedford IN
T/I on 146.73 rptr PL107.2

VE Testing *
Saturday, October 26, 2002 –
9:30 AM
AES
Milwaukee, WI

MRAC Meeting
Oct. 31, 2002
7:00 PM
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

MRAC Meeting
Nov. 28, 2002
7:00 PM
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

VE Testing *
Sat. - November 30, 2002
9:30 AM
AES
Milwaukee, WI

MRAC Christmas Party/
Dinner
Sun. - Dec. 1, 2002
Machine Shed
Highway J & I-94

Please, use our Repeater.
Use it or lose it.
147.045 MHz + offset.

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for the the remainder of the year 2002 is as follows:

Thu. - Sep. 25, '02
Thu. - Oct. 31, '02
Thu. - Nov. 28, '02
Christmas party
Dec. 1, 02

See you there!

Pancho - KA9OFA

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9CD	WB9PSE	KF9XL
AB9EK	W9UQ	W9YRA

Thanks also to Mark Tellier - AB9CD, Rita Doneis, andKristi Potochnik, for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl for making sure that the 'Chatter gets print-ed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald and Myron Hendrickson for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who our VEC's

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many Thanks!

M.R.A.C.

Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month except in December. Our next meeting is;

Thursday - September 26, 2002.

at 7:00 PM at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!

Celebrating 85 Years!

Attention!!!

September26, 2002 meeting. 7:00PM

New Frequency
for our Repeater.
==========
145.390 MHz - offset.
PL of 127.3 is now required for repeater operation.

Visit our Website **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**
Our Phone (262) 797-MRAC
797 - 7 7 2 2

M.R.A.C.

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - - since 1917

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O.Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use Our Club Repeater 145.390 - offset and 127.3 Hz PL